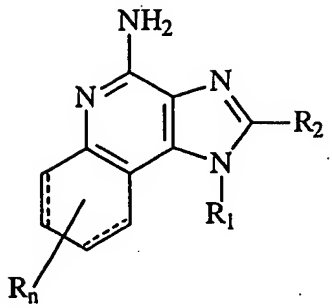
WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A compound of the formula (I):



(I)

wherein

R_1 is $-C_{2-6}$ alkyl-NR_3-CY-NR_5-R_4 wherein

Y is =O or =S;

R_4 is hydrogen, alkyl, aryl, or substituted aryl;

R_2 is selected from the group consisting of:

-hydrogen;

-alkyl;

-alkenyl;

-aryl;

-substituted aryl;

-heteroaryl;

-substituted heteroaryl;

-alkyl-O-aryl;

- alkyl -O-alkyl;

-alkyl-O- alkenyl; and

- alkyl or alkenyl substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of:

-OH;

-halogen;

$-N(R_3)_2$;

-CO-N(R_3)$_2$;

-CO-C_{1-10} alkyl;

-CO-O-C_{1-10} alkyl;

-N_3;

-aryl;

-substituted aryl;

-heteroaryl;

-substituted heteroaryl;

-heterocyclyl;

-substituted heterocyclyl;

-CO-aryl;

-CO-(substituted aryl);

-CO-heteroaryl; and

-CO-(substituted heteroaryl);

each $\mathbf{R_3}$ is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and C_{1-10} alkyl;

$\mathbf{R_5}$ is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and C_{1-10} alkyl, or $\mathbf{R_4}$ and $\mathbf{R_5}$ can combine to form a 3 to 7 membered heterocyclic or substituted heterocyclic ring;

n is 0 to 4 and each **R** present is independently selected from the group consisting of C_{1-10} alkyl, C_{1-10} alkoxy, halogen and trifluoromethyl,

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

2. A compound of claim 1 wherein the dashed bonds are absent.

3. A compound of claim 2 wherein Y is =O.

4. A compound of claim 2 wherein n is 0.

5. A compound of claim 2 wherein R_3 is hydrogen.

6. A compound of claim 2 wherein R_2 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C_{1-4}alkyl, and C_{1-4}alkyl-O- C_{1-4}alkyl.

7. A compound of claim 2 wherein R_4 and R_5 combine to form a 3 to 7 membered substituted or unsubstituted heterocyclic ring.

8. A compound selected from the group consisting of:

N-[4-(4-amino-2-ethyl-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-1-yl)butyl]-*N*'-phenylurea;
N-[4-(4-amino-2-methyl-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-1-yl)butyl]-*N*'-phenylurea;
N-{8-[4-amino-2-(2-methoxyethyl)-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-1-yl]octyl}-*N*'-phenylurea;
N-[3-(4-amino-2-butyl-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-1-yl)propyl]-*N*'-phenylurea;
N-[3-(4-amino-2-butyl-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-1-yl)propyl]-*N*'-phenylthiourea;
N-[3-(4-amino-2-butyl-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-1-yl)propyl]-*N*'-butylurea;
N-[3-(4-amino-2-butyl-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-1-yl)propyl]morpholine-4-carboxamide;
N-[3-(4-amino-2-butyl-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-1-yl)propyl]-*N*'-propylthiourea;
N-[3-(4-amino-2-butyl-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-1-yl)propyl]-*N*'-cyclohexylurea;
N-[8-(4-amino-2-butyl-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-1-yl)octyl]-*N*'-phenylurea;
N-[4-(4-amino-2-hexyl-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-1-yl)butyl]-*N*'-phenylurea;
N-{3-[4-amino-2-(2-methoxyethyl)-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-1-yl]propyl}-*N*'-propylthiourea;
N-{3-[4-amino-2-(2-methoxyethyl)-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-1-yl]propyl}-*N*'-cyclohexylthiourea;
N-{3-[4-amino-2-(2-methoxyethyl)-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-1-yl]propyl}-*N*'-cyclohexylurea;
N-[4-(4-amino-2-pentyl-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-1-yl)butyl]-*N*'-phenylurea;
N-[4-(4-amino-2-propyl-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-1-yl)butyl]-*N*'-phenylurea;
N-{3-[4-amino-2-(2-methoxyethyl)-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-1-yl]propyl}-*N*'-phenylurea;
N-{3-[4-amino-2-(2-methoxyethyl)-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-1-yl]propyl}-*N*'-butylurea;
N-{3-[4-amino-2-(2-methoxyethyl)-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-1-yl]propyl}morpholine-4-carboxamide;
N-[4-(4-amino-2-butyl-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-1-yl)butyl]-*N*'-phenylurea;

N-{3-[4-amino-2-(2-methoxyethyl)-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-1-yl]propyl}morpholine-4-carboxamide;

N-{3-[4-amino-2-(3-phenoxypropyl)-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-1-yl]propyl}morpholine-4-carboxamide;

N-[3-(4-amino-2-methyl-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-1-yl)propyl]morpholine-4-carboxamide;

N-{3-[4-amino-2-(2-methoxyethyl)-6,7,8,9-tetrahydro-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-1-yl]propyl}morpholine-4-carboxamide;

N-{3-[4-amino-2-(2-methoxyethyl)-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-1-yl]-2,2-dimethylpropyl}-*N'*-phenylurea;

N-[4-(4-amino-2-methyl-6,7,8,9-tetrahydro-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-1-yl)butyl]morpholine-4-carboxamide;

N-{4-[4-amino-2-(3-phenoxypropyl)-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-1-yl]butyl}morpholine-4-carboxamide; and

N-[4-(4-amino-2-pentyl-6,7,8,9-tetrahydro-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-1-yl)butyl]morpholine-4-carboxamide;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

9. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1 in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

10. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 2 in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

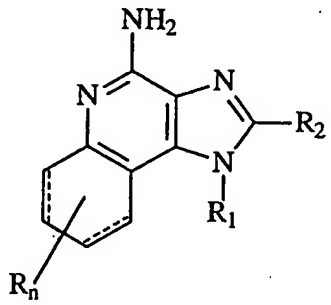
11. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 8 in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

12. A method of inducing cytokine biosynthesis in an animal comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1 to the animal.

13. A method of inducing cytokine biosynthesis in an animal comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 2 to the animal.

14. A method of inducing cytokine biosynthesis in an animal comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 8 to the animal.

15. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of the formula Ia:



(Ia)

wherein

R_1 is -alkyl-NR_3-CO-O-R_4;

R_4 is alkyl, aryl, or substituted aryl;

R_2 is selected from the group consisting of:

-hydrogen;

-alkyl;

-alkenyl;

-aryl;

-substituted aryl;

-heteroaryl;

-substituted heteroaryl;

-alkyl-O-aryl;

- alkyl -O-alkyl;

-alkyl-O- alkenyl; and

- alkyl or alkenyl substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of:

-OH;

-halogen;

$-N(R_3)_2$;

$-CO-N(R_3)_2$;

$-CO-C_{1-10}$ alkyl;

$-CO-O-C_{1-10}$ alkyl;

$-N_3$;

-aryl;

-substituted aryl;

-heteroaryl;

-substituted heteroaryl;

-heterocyclyl;

-substituted heterocyclyl;

-CO-aryl;

-CO-(substituted aryl);

-CO-heteroaryl; and

-CO-(substituted heteroaryl);

each $\mathbf{R_3}$ is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and C_{1-10} alkyl;

n is 0 to 4 and each **R** present is independently selected from the group consisting of C_{1-10} alkyl, C_{1-10} alkoxy, halogen and trifluoromethyl,

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

16. A pharmaceutical composition of claim 15 wherein the compound is selected from the group consisting of:

tert-butyl 3-(4-amino-2-butyl-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-1-yl)propylcarbamate;

tert-butyl 3-[4-amino-2-(2-methoxyethyl)-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-1-yl]propylcarbamate;

tert-butyl 3-(4-amino-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-1-yl)propylcarbamate;

tert-butyl 3-[4-amino-2-(3-phenoxypropyl)-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-1-yl]propylcarbamate;

tert-butyl 3-[4-amino-2-(ethoxymethyl)-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-1-yl]propylcarbamate;

tert-butyl 3-(4-amino-2-methyl-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-1-yl)propylcarbamate;

tert-butyl 3-[4-amino-2-(ethoxymethyl)-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-1-yl]ethylcarbamate; and

tert-butyl 3-[4-amino-2-(methoxyethyl)-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-1-yl]ethylcarbamate.

17. A method of inducing cytokine biosynthesis in an animal comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a composition of claim 15 to the animal.

18. A method of inducing cytokine biosynthesis in an animal comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a composition of claim 16 to the animal.